

SCROPHULARIACEAE

NOTES ON THE GENUS *APTOSIMUM*

The acceptance of the proposal to conserve *Aptosimum* Burch. ex Benth. against *Ohlendorffia* Lehm. (see Taxon 25: 190, 1976) means that the generic name for the well-known Karoo Violet is retained, but that *depressum* may not be used as the specific epithet. Certain other small changes are noted below.

***Aptosimum* Burch. ex Benth.** in Bot. Reg. new ser. 9: t. 1882 (1836), nom. cons. Type species: *A. depressum* Burch. ex Benth.

Aptosimum Burch., Trav. 1: 129 (1822), non rite publ.
Ohlendorffia Lehm., Del. Sem. Hort. Hamburg bot. 7 (1835).

***A. procumbens* (Lehm.) Steud.**, Nom. Bot. edn 2, 1: 114 (1841). Type: Cape, Hermanskraal (now Fort Brown), ex hort. Hamburg, *Ecklon* (no herbarium specimen can be traced but Bot. Reg. t. 1882 was prepared from the cultivated plant and may be regarded as representative).

Ohlendorffia procumbens Lehm., 1.c.

Ruellia depressa L.f., Suppl. 290 (1781); Thunb., Prodr. 2: 104 (1800), Fl. Cap. edn Schult. 479 (1823). Type: Cape, *Thunberg* s.n. (UPS).

A. depressum Burch., Trav. 1: 260 (1822), nom. nud.

A. depressum Burch., ex Benth. in Bot. Reg. new ser. 9: t. 1882 (1836), nom. illegit; Dyer & Milne-Redh. in Kew Bull. 1934: 265 (1934). Iconotype: Bot. Reg. t. 1822 (no herbarium specimen found in K or CGE).

var. ***elongatum* (Hiern) Codd**, comb. nov.

A. depressum var. *elongatum* Hiern in Fl. Cap. 4,2: 131 (1904). Lectotype: Transvaal, Pienaars River, *Schlechter* 4223 (K, lecto.).

A. elongatum Engl. in Bot. Jb. 10: 249 (1888); Hemsl. & Skan in Fl. Trop. Afr. 4,2: 273 (1906). Type: Cape, Barkly West, *Marloth* 831.

***A. indivisum* Burch. ex Benth.** sub Bot. Reg. new ser. 9: t. 1882 (1836). Lectotype: Karoo, *Drège* 620 (K).

A. indivisum Burch., Trav. 1: 219 (1822), nom. illegit.

Burchell, in his Travels in Southern Africa 1: 129 (1822), published the name *Aptosimum* without a description, giving only a short explanatory note on the derivation of the name from the Greek words *a*, not, and *ptosimos*, deciduous, in reference to the capsules remaining on the stems long after the seeds are shed. This short note might, by some, be regarded as adequate for the requirements of the Code, but the consensus of opinion, when the subject was submitted to the nomenclatural committee, was that it was insufficient.

The fact that Burchell, on the same page, described the species *A. indivisum* cannot be adduced as a generico-specific description (Art. 42) because on p. 308 he described a second species, *A. abietinum* Burch., while on p. 260 he listed *A. depressum* without description or citation of a basionym. It may be noted that *A. abietinum* is now included in *A. spinescens* (Thunb.) Web.

The names and author citations of all the other species of *Aptosimum* are not affected.

Ohlendorffia procumbens Lehm., Del. Sem. Hort. Hamburg bot. 7 (1835), was based on living plants raised in the Hamburg Botanic Garden (where Ecklon stayed from 1833 to 1837) from seed collected by Ecklon at 'Herrmans-kraal' on the Great Fish River. Hermanskraal is now Fort Brown, about 22 km north of Grahamstown. Lehmann named the genus after a promising young botanist, C. F. Ohlendorff of Holstein, who had died on the Danish island of St Croix in the West Indies. He also supplied a painting and specimen to John Lindley, who published the illustration, with a description of the species and notes on the genera *Aptosimum* and *Peliostomum* drawn up by Bentham, in Bot. Reg. t. 1882 (1836).

Bentham realized that Lehmann's plant was conspecific with the one listed by Burchell as *Aptosimum depressum*, but saw no reason to reject Burchell's name and presented the synonymy as follows:

Aptosimum depressum Burch.

Ruellia depressa Thunb.?

Ohlendorffia procumbens Lehm.

The Thunb. citation refers to *Ruellia depressa* L. f., Suppl. 290 (1781), based on a Thunberg specimen collected at the Cape. Thunberg took up the name in his Prodr. 2: 104 (1800) and Fl. Cap. edn Schult. 479 (1823). Dyer & Milne-Redhead examined a specimen on loan from Uppsala of the above Thunberg gathering and reported that it agrees well with the Bot. Reg. illustration and with Burchell 1354, listed by Burchell as *Aptosimum depressum*. They concluded that the correct citation for the species should be *Aptosimum depressum* (L. f.) Burch., ex Benth. However, they overlooked the significance of the question mark which Bentham added after *Ruellia depressa* Thunb. This indicated

that Bentham was not sure of the identity of *Ruellia depressa* so his use of the epithet *depressum* cannot be regarded as being a transfer from *Ruellia*. Nor is there any indication that Burchell was taking up the Linn. fil. epithet when he published the nomen nudum *A. depressum*. Because Bentham expressed uncertainty regarding the identity of '*Ruellia depressa* Thunb.', he should have taken up Lehmann's epithet *procumbens*. This means that *Aptosimum depressum* Burch. ex Benth. is a superfluous name and therefore illegitimate, so that the Linn. fil. epithet cannot now be taken up in *Aptosimum*.

Regarding the varietal epithet *elongatum*, there is no evidence that Hiern based his var. *elongatum* on *A. elongatum* Engl. At varietal rank, therefore, Hiern's epithet has priority and must be transferred to *A. procumbens*. If, however, the entity should be reinstated as a separate species, the correct citation will be *A. elongatum* Engl.

L. E. CODD